

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00468 202209Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-01 COA-01 DLOS-03 L-02 EB-07

PA-01 PRS-01 /060 W

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R 202128Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4107

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 6638

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, ETRD, PFOR, EC

SUBJ: CALL ON SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES

REF: A. USDAO QUITO 152130Z JAN 75; B. QUITO 0378

1. DURING COURSE OF COURTESY CALL JANUARY 17, SUBSECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FISHERIES, COMMANDER ETHIEL RODRIGUEZ, EXPRESSED TO ME AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL IMPACT OF TRA FOR US/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS AND RODRIGUEZ ANALOGIZED IMPLICATIONS OF PRESENT TRADE CONTROVERSY TO "TUNA WAR" OF PAST YEARS. HE HOPED PROBLEM COULD BE WORKED OUT IN CALM AND REASONED WAY. I ASSURED RODRIGUEZ THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO ALLEVIATE EFFECTS OF TRA ON ECUADOR.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF FISHERIES MATTERS, RODRIGUEZ MADE POINT SEVERAL TIMES THAT FRICTION BETWEEN US OVER TUNA BOATS WAS A THING OF THE PAST.

3. I ALSO RAISED OUR CONCERN OVER THE RECENT GOE REGULATION LIMITING LICENSE ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN-FLAG FISHING VESSELS TO VESSELS 600 NRT AND UNDER. (SEE QUITO A-129). RODRIGUEZ REPLIED THAT THIS TONNAGE

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PAGE 02 QUITO 00468 202209Z

LIMITATION WOULD LIKELY VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR DEPENDING

ON GOE'S ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF TUNA OFF ECUADOR'S COAST.

4. FINALLY, WE TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT GOE'S PLANS FOR MODERNIZING LOCAL TUNA INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING COMPLEX. WHILE THESE IDEAS ARE STILL ALIVE WITHIN THE MINISTRY, RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT GOE WAS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY IN THESE AREAS AND HE IMPLIED THAT THIS PREDECESSOR (COMMANDER RIVADENEIRA) AND THE FORMER MANAGER OF EPNA (VINCENTE TAMARIZ) HAD PERHAPS BEEN A BIT TOO HASTY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE ABORTED ASSOCIATION CONTRACT WITH B&B.

5. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF TRADE BILL PARALLELS VIEWS RECENTLY CONVEYED TO US BY HIS NAVAL COLLEAGUE CNO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ (REFTELS), REFLECTING PERHAPS WHAT HAS BECOME A STANDARD NAVY LINE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH US WHATEVER THE SUBJECT MATTER.

6. AS REGARDS FISHING MATTERS, WE WERE STRUCK BY WHAT APPEARED TO US TO BE A SOMEWHAT CASUAL ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF RODRIGUEZ WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF ECUADOR'S FISHING INDUSTRY AS COMPARED TO THE OSTENSIBLY MORE ACTIVIST APPROACH OF HIS PREDECESSOR. IT MAY WELL BE THAT FISHING, WHICH ONCE LOOMED LARGE IN GOE'S EYES AS POTENTIAL SOURCE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REVENUE, HAS NOW FINALLY FALLEN INTO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE WITH THE ADVENT OF OIL REVENUES.
HEMENWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, TUNA, FISHING INDUSTRY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FISHING REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO00468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750021-1059
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750137/aaaabgik.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USDAO QUITO 152130Z, 75 JAN 75, 75 QUITO 0378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES
TAGS: EFIS, ETRD, PFOR, EC, US, (RODRIGUEZ, ETHIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006